

REMARKS

As of the Notice of Allowance, claims 1 and 4, 5, 7, 8, 12 – 20, 22 – 24, 26, 30 – 33 and 35 - 36 were allowed and claims 2, 3, 6, 9 – 11, 21, 27 – 29 and 34 were canceled.

By this amendment, claims 1, 4 and 35 are amended.

First, claims 1, 4 and 35 are amended to more clearly identify that the claims refer to coefficients "times" the induced gelling concentration. As such, the "." has been replaced with an "x" for clarity. Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter has been added by the amendments.

Additionally, Applicants have amended claim 1 to clarify the step of "mixing said solutions". As amended, this step recites: "mixing said solutions with a concentrated aqueous solution of bovine serum albumin (BSA) to obtain a solution containing 30 mg/ml of BSA". The purpose of this step is to obtain a known concentration of BSA. Support for the amendment can be found, for example, the originally filed specification at paragraph 0264 (Example 8). Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter has been added by the amendments.

Applicants also submit herewith an Information Disclosure Statement for consideration by the Examiner.

Reconsideration and allowance of the claims are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

If it is determined that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

Applicants believe no fee is due with this response. If, however, fees are due or that an extension is required, Applicants petition for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 50-2228 referencing docket no. 022290.0159PTUS.

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Respectfully submitted,

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